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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

1200 Fourth Ave.
Farmville, Va.
January 4, 1978

The Editor
Appomattox Times-Virginian
Appomattox, Va.
Dear Sir

VALUELESS TREATIES

Malvin R. Laird, the former Secretary of Defense, has done a great service to the United States by publishing his article "Arms Control: The Russians Are Cheating!" in the **Reader's Digest**, December, 1977, issue. Laird strongly points out to informed and concerned persons that the evidence is unquestionable that the Soviet Union has repeatedly, flagrantly and indeed contemptuously violated the Salt I Agreement. According to Laird, treaties that cannot be enforced are worse than no treaties at all. They breed a baseless sense of security and dangerous complacency. The Russians are counting upon the ignorance and a lack of will among Americans. Therefore, the Congress, with the support of the people, should proceed now to give President Jimmy Carter standby authorization and appropriations to strengthen decisively our military forces should the Russians defy any new agreements.

Unfortunately, on December 22, 1977, President Carter, approved a defense budget for the next fiscal year that is about $4 billion less than Defense Secretary Harold Brown had sought. This defense budget is markedly closer to the ideas of Senator George McGovern than those of Senator Scoop Jackson. The scrapping of the B-1 bomber likewise shows us Carter's real defense philosophy. The fact should not be overlooked that the European members of the NATO are afraid that, under the influence of such liberals as Vice President Walter Mondale and Paul Warnke, the chief arms negotiator, the United States is giving too much away to Soviet Russia for the sake of achieving a new, politically showy but practically valueless strategic arms limitation treaty - SALT II.

Therefore, concerned citizens should ask members of Congress to strengthen the defense budget of the United States to a considerable extent and the Senate to refrain from the ratification of any strategic arms limitation treaty that cannot be enforced.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Alexander V. Berkis

LETTER OF THANKS

We arrived back home last Thursday night, Jan. 5, 1978, after a 3½ month stay in Seattle, Washington where Connie received a complete bone marrow transplant. We are thankful the operation was successful and Connie is able to be at home with us. She will, of course, be somewhat confined and under doctor's care for the next year, but we are at home and all together as a family once again.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our friends for the many acts of kindness shown us during these months. The prayers of each individual and of the church groups were certainly answered by the present miracle in Connie's life. All the cards, letters and telephone calls helped keep our spirits up when there didn't seem to be much hope. Connie's room was completely decorated with cards she and Chris enjoyed daily.

The school system was most cooperative in working with Karen during her absence to be with Connie in Seattle to donate her bone marrow. The love shown Karen by her classmates, fellow cheerleaders and teachers during the months made this entire experience a little less painful for her.

We have a record of the donations made by each of you and hope to be able to thank you individually a little later. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for all that you have done for us. A special thanks to "Granny Gillaspie" for keeping things going on our home front while we were away.

It is impossible to express in words our deep appreciation for all your deeds of kindness that are too numerous to mention here.

Please continue to remember Connie in your prayers as she continues to receive treatment during the next year.

Chris and Connie Gallier,
Dallas, Virginia and Karen Gillaspie

RESPONSE TO THE LETTER TO THE EDITOR, JANUARY 5 ISSUE, FROM M. J. HOFFMAN

My feelings are the same but my response is not answers! My love for the teen-agers goes without mentioning, and I have thought for so long that they need constructive activities.

I agree that our churches should be used for the teen-agers, but who would do the planning and supervising? Most adults do not want to take the time or put forth the effort to work with youth.

I have been in the Athletic Booster Club for several years now. It could be considered a successful organization since so much has been done for the athletic program of the high school. But, there are only about fifty members at this time with less than ten attending meetings regularly. My point is that there are approximately three hundred students participating in the athletic program, and so few parents involved in a program to help them!

God has blessed Appomattox and I know that He will continue to do so, but we need to pitch in and do more ourselves. We have a good school system which could be better. We have good teachers, with a few exceptions. We almost have enough space for everybody (the schools are crowded - some classrooms are overcrowded). Our problems, with drugs, alcohol, discipline, etc. could be worse. Indeed, we should be thankful!

Let's not settle for what we have, though. Let's somehow make things better. I, as a parent, accept M. J. Hoffman's "challenge". I am willing to work toward making this an "ideal" community with our young people have first priority.

Peggy Lawson

The Pastor Speaks

At the close of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, Jesus concludes with this teaching: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a sensible man who builds his house on the rock. Down came the rain and up came the floods, while the winds blew and roared upon that house - and it did not fall because its foundation was on the rock." (Mt. 7:24 & 25).

Jesus knew that those who lived by what he taught would face many storms and temptations no different from others in the world. The difference would be in the resulting condition of their spirit and soul. To be his disciple would involve discipline.

We like every generation would like to have the harvest without the labor. We would like to have the fruit without the care for the trees. We would like to have influence without the learning. We would like to have the money without the investment of self and time. Yet we have nothing in life, spiritually or materially, without discipline.

Like at a comparison of what we sing and what we live as Christians:

We sing "Sweet Hour of Prayer".

And content ourselves with a verse of scripture and five minutes of prayer a day.

We sing "O for a thousand tongues to sing"

and don't open our mouths.

We sing "Blest be the tie that binds"

and let the least offense sever it.

We sing "I love to tell the story"

and never mention it to our friends.

We sing "We're marching to Zion."

and don't get out of bed for church.

We sing "Cast your burdens on the Lord"

and worry ourselves into nervous breakdowns.

We sing "Let there be peace on earth"

and use ugly names for other peoples.

We sing "Onward Christian soldiers"

and wait to be drafted into his service.

You get the point.

The only resolution we need for any new year is to discipline ourselves so that how we live come sin line with what we say we believe or what we say we ought to believe.

Edward Leonard,
Memorial United Methodist Church

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

THE PRICE OF VISIONS

Lesson for January 15, 1978

Background Scripture: Daniel 1
Devotional Reading: Habakkuk 2:15-20.

Sri Chinmoy, a teacher of meditation from India, has remarked: "Some people will do anything for their own advancement except work for it." In other words, many of us are desirous of the fruits of God's gifts, but we do not want to pay the price. We are perhaps like the woman who listened as a great pianist played a stirring Polonoun by Chopin. "I'd give everything to play like that." Turning to her, the pianist said: "Yes, that's what it takes: everything."

Rev. Althouse

Indulge yourself!

We live in an age when the terms self-denial and self-discipline are virtually unknown. Our culture's message is basically: "Indulge yourselves—you have it coming to you." Many of us are caught up in a frantic effort to enjoy ourselves to the fullest: to get as much as we can as often as we can. We are perhaps often like the comic strip character who asks his big sister: "Did I have a good time today? Sometimes I can't tell." The assumption is that if we consume as much of the world's goods as we can, we will have a "good time." Often, however, that assumption is obviously wrong.

The first chapter of the Book of Daniel presents a challenging counterview. Daniel and his compatriots are given what must seem to be "an offer they can't refuse:" they will live and be educated in the palace of the great Babylonian King Ashpenaz eating the same sumptuous food and drink enjoyed by the king and his court. They will be the envy of their fellow Israelites with the "good life" that has suddenly become theirs.

The good life?

Daniel, however, "looks the gift horse in the mouth" and doesn't see the offer as "the good life." He knows the rich food and drink of the king, no matter how good it all looks and tastes, will be unhealthy with too much quantity, too much richness. So he persuades the king's eunoch to allow him to pursue a vegetarian diet.

The eunoch consents but he has a problem. If Daniel's diet makes him weak and listless, the eunoch will be in trouble with the king. So a demonstration is arranged. Daniel and his associates will be tested in comparison to the servants of the eunoch who eat the king's rich food. The result of the test: "So the steward took away their rich food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables."

The point of the story is not a pitch for a vegetarian diet. It is rather to demonstrate what can happen in our lives when we dare to discipline ourselves. The "good life," the writer is saying, is the disciplined life. Because Daniel thought more of his soul than his appetites, he "had understanding in all visions and dreams." All of us would like to experience the visions and revelations of the great men of faith, but are we willing to pay the price?

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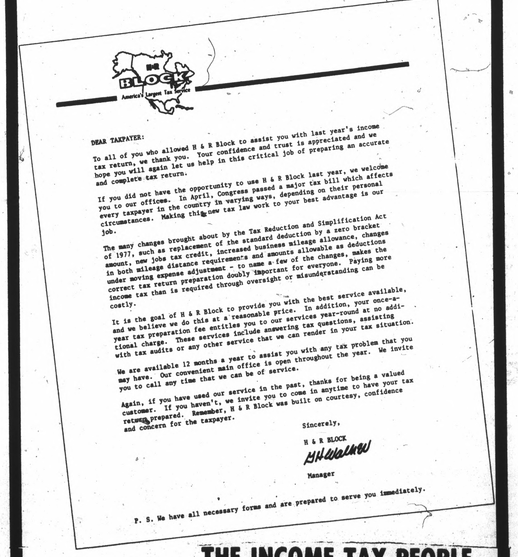
From H&R BLOCK



DEAR TAXPAYER:

To all of you who allowed H & R Block to assist you with last year's income tax return, we thank you. Your confidence and trust is appreciated and we hope you will again let us help in this critical job of preparing an accurate and complete tax return.

If you did not have the opportunity to use H & R Block last year, we welcome you to our offices. In April, Congress passed a major tax bill which affects every taxpayer in the country in varying ways, depending on their personal circumstances. Making this new tax law work to your best advantage is our job.

The many changes brought about by the Tax Reduction and Simplification Act of 1977, such as replacement of the standard deduction by a zero bracket amount, new jobs tax credit, increased business mileage allowance, changes in both mileage distance requirements and amounts allowable as deductions under moving expense adjustment - to name a few of the changes, makes the correct tax return preparation doubly important for everyone. Paying more income tax than is required through oversight or misunderstanding can be costly.

It is the goal of H & R Block to provide you with the best service available, and we believe we do this at a reasonable price. In addition, your once-a-year tax preparation fee entitles you to our services year-round at no additional charge. These services include answering tax questions, assisting with tax audits or any other service that we can render in your tax situation.

We are available 12 months a year to assist you with any tax problem that you may have. Our convenient main office is open throughout the year. We invite you to call any time that we can be of service.

Again, if you have used our service in the past, thanks for being a valued customer. If you haven't, we invite you to come in anytime to have your tax return prepared. Remember, H & R Block was built on courtesy, confidence and concern for the taxpayer.

Sincerely,
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Manager

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CONVENIENT PARKING — NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

"The South 40"
by JAMES A. SMITH
EXTENSION AGENT

Records continue to be important -- not just nice things, but essential if the desired level of management is to be maintained.

If you don't believe records are important, talk to the dairymen on DHIA or the beef cow-calf producer who is on BCIA or anyone about ready to complete income tax returns.

For your help we have Inventory Record Books and Cash and Expenses Record forms.

There's a growing group of food producers that need to consider the Virginia Agribusiness Management Association program. This is a computerized program that is essential for a middle to large farming operation. Cash is $295 per year, early payment lowers the cost to $280. We'll be glad to provide additional information on this system.

* * *

It's always interesting to identify plant material that, at least to me, is new.

The week before Christmas I saw a bush with brilliant red berries, but no leaves in Spout Spring Community. I thought it might be a deciduous holly, commonly called Winterberry or Black Alder -- the literature says it grows in this area, but I had never been able to locate a specimen.

A sample was sent to the laboratory and it was confirmed as Winterberry or more specific, Ilex Verticillata.

The fruit may be red or yellow and will normally not grow taller than 9 feet. Recently a dwarf variety was found in Massachusetts, reaching a height of 3½ feet and the fruit are twice the size of the standard variety.

Although Winterberry is frequently found in swamps, it can be grown in almost any good garden soil.

* * *

Nitrogen fertilizers are a necessity in order to meet the demand for food and fiber, and nitrogen applications can reduce the cost per ton to grow a crop by 50 to 50%.

One of our concerns in that nitrogen lost from soil through leaching and denitrification is not available for crop production. These losses occur mainly when nitrogen is applied in, or after conversion to, the nitrate form. It is estimated that only 45-50% of applied nitrate is taken up by the plant; 25% is changed to soil organic N and 25% lost from soil -- 20% through denitrification and 5% leached.

Various techniques such as multiple applications, late side-dressing, of increased rates of N are used to minimize N loss or its effects on crop growth. The recent availability of nitrification inhibitors to reduce losses provides an additional approach to increase the efficient utilization of nitrogen through production.

Critical shortages of fuel and increased costs of fertilizers required for food production threaten to intensify the hunger already encountered in many areas of the world and diminish our own food reserves. These concerns can be reduced by using an inhibitor with nitrogen fertilizer.

* * *

Look for a picture of the new "Sweet Favorite" Watermelon. Last year we grew some and they are the sweetest I've ever eaten. Carter Martin had some of the seed -- ask him about them.

PRECIPITATION:

Last Week	2.48
This Month	2.48
This Year	2.48

Vepco Proposes New Rate For Churches

Virginia Electric and Power Company filed today with the State Corporation Commission a proposed new rate for churches.

"The new rate would recognize the unique usage patterns of some churches, synagogues and similar institutions," said William W. Berry, executive vice president. "It is also an additional step in Vepco's time-of-usage pricing program."

Under the program, churches may volunteer for a one-year period to be billed on the basis of the time that energy is used. The schedule filed with the Commission for its approval would provide a basic customer charge of $17.50 plus an energy charge of 2.39 cents per kilowatthour for on-peak usage and 1.50 cents per kwh for off-peak usage. On-peak hours are 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. EST (10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. EDT) Monday through Friday. All other hours, including weekends, are off-peak.

The proposed schedule also includes an on-peak kilowatt demand charge. Peak demand determines the amount of generation the company must build. For the summer billing months of June through September, it is $7.57 per kw for the first 200 kw of on-peak demand and $8.87 per kw for additional kw on-peak demand. In the winter billing months of October through May, the first 200 kw of on-peak demand is priced at $4.91 per kw with additional on-peak demand priced at $6.41 per kw. There is no kilowatt demand charge for off-peak demand which includes weekends.

"Since the program is just beginning, we cannot estimate how many church would benefit by volunteering for the new rate," Mr. Berry said. "Churches that conduct all or most of their activities on weekends are in the best position for savings," he said.

He added that the program would be administered on an individual basis on Vepco. "Any church interested in this program should contact the nearest Vepco office. A personal visit by a Vepco representative will be made to assist the church in estimating the impact that time-of-usage rates would have on the church's energy costs.

"The timing of the program will depend on the number of churches participating and the availability and delivery of new time-of-usage meters," Mr. Berry said.

Mt. Shiloh Service Held Sunday

A very large crowd of members and friends attended the regular preaching service last Sunday at the Mount Shiloh Baptist Church. The pastor delivered and inspiring sermon on the theme: "Facing the New Year." Beautiful music was rendered by the senior and junior choirs. All present enjoyed the message.

All members and friends are invited to attend the regular preaching service at the Galilee Baptist Church this Sunday morning at 11 a.m.

The Mount Shiloh Junior Choir announced plans for its anniversary celebration on the third Sunday in February at 3 p.m. Local Junior Choirs will be invited to attend the special service. The New Hope Baptist Church and pastor of Danville will be the special guest.

The Annual Church Meeting of the Promise Land Baptist Church will be held on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in this month at 12 p.m. All officers and members are asked to be present.

The general public is cordially invited to attend the regular preaching service at the Zion Baptist Church this Sunday morning at 11 a.m. The pastor Rev. L. E. Hankins will be in charge.

The Ladies Aid of the Zion Baptist Church met last Sunday at 2 p.m. with Mrs. Geneva Wiggins president. Mrs. Maggie Franklin recorded the minutes. Miss Lillie Holcomb led the opening hymn, Scripture and prayer was given by Miss Barbara Hunter. The business matters were discussed. Miss Barbara was appointed as chair person for the for the anniversary. The report on the Christmas baskets was given by Mrs. Susie Hunter. The report was well received by the Aid. Mrs. Mattie Lawson was appointed as chair person for the annual Mothers Day Program. Miss Barbara Hunter served a delicious dinner at the close of the meeting. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Nannie Johnson.

Mr. Syvester Ferguson is receiving treatment in the Lynchburg General Marshall Lodge Hospital. We hope for him a speedy recovery. Let us pray for all the sick of our community everywhere.

Mrs. Gayden Ganon Spc/4 and husband of Weisborden, Germany have returned to the states. Miss Sybill Franklin visited friends in Bluefield, West Virginia recently.

Mrs. Julia Terry a charter member was recently elected as treasurer of the Ladies Aid of the Zion Baptist Church.

We of the Zion Baptist Church community extend our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Minnie Ferguson in the death of her sister, Mrs. Lucille Gray Scott of New York.

ADDITIONS TO ACHS HONOR ROLL

Appomattox County High School has added the following names to the 12th Grade Honor Roll: Donna Mitchell, Marlene Moore, Bernita Moore, and Bernice McIvor.

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Valleydale TEEN FRANKS 99¢ lb.
Packers Smoked HAMS Shank-Half $1.09 lb. Butt-Half $1.19 lb.
Fresh Winter TROUT FISH 59¢ lb.
Smoked 1/5 Sliced Ham $1.19 lb.
Lipton 100 TEA BAGS Lipton Tea Bags 100 Count $1.99
Dairy Products & Frozen Foods
Packers Label 20oz. bag. F.F. Potatoes 4/$1.00
Argo 17 oz. can Sweet Peas 4/$1.00
Richfood Buttermilk & Sweetmilk Biscuits 8 oz. can 4 PACK 59¢
Richfood 10¾ oz. can Tomato Soup 6/$1.00
Richfood 2 per package PieCrust Shells 3/$1.00
Libby's 12 oz. can Corned Beef 99¢
Richfood 46 oz. can DRINKS Grape, Pineapple-Grapefruit, Orange, Cherry 2/$1.00
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Tony's Sausage, Pepperidge, Supreme PIZZAS 20¢ Off
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